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		ANSMITTAL LETTER	STGUP008						
		DESIGNATED/ELECT	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)						
	(NG UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (Ifknown, see 37 CFR 1.5)					
	INTERNA	ATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE00/00522	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 17-Mar-2000	priority date claimed 19-Mar-1999					
	TITLE OF INVENTION A DIGITAL CAMERA HAVING PANNING AND/OR TILTING FUNCTIONALITY AND AN								
	IMAGE ROTATING DEVICE FOR SUCH A CAMERA APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Willy SAGEFALK and Lars ABRAHAMSSON								
ı	Applicant		es Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the follo	owing items and other information:					
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	5. ×	The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))							
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		b. has been communicated by the International Bureau.							
	. —	c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).							
	6. X	An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))							
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-		a. \square are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). have been communicated by the International Bureau.							
15 ult 15 ult		c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.							
±		d. have not been made and will not be made.							
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An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 1449 and # of cites: 4 12. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.									
13. A FIRST preliminary amendment. # of pages: 2									
1.4		A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT	preliminary amendment.						
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NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR											
1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.											
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	I hereby certify that the attached fee and papers as indicated in this transmittal letter are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office To NAME										
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Date: 1	Date: Nov 15 2000 Signed: Charles C. Cary										
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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents and/or fees referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 15, 2000 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10, Mailing Label Number EF051384256US, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, DC 2023

Date: November 15, 2000 Signed:

Charles C. Cary

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. STGUP008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)					
SAGEFALK et al.)	Examiner: n/a				
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Filed: November 15, 2000)					
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Before examination, please amend claims 1-	o in this	application as follows.				
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A digital camera [(300)] having panning and/or tilting functionality, comprising: a camera housing [(6)] with an optical input [(400)], such as a lens or objective [(8)]; an image capturing unit [(500)] for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input; a controller [(600)]; a first mirror [(9)] mounted externally to the camera housing [(6)] and an image rotating device [(200)], which is connected to the controller [(600)] and is adapted to rotate the first mirror at an angle of rotation with respect to the optical input [(400, 8)] of the camera housing [(6)], characterized by

an image transforming unit [(800)], which is connected to the image capturing unit [(500)] and is adapted to rotate the digital image, as captured by the image capturing unit [(500)], by an angle related to the angle of rotation of the first mirror [(9)].

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- 2. (Amended) A digital camera as in claim 1, further comprising a second mirror [(10)] mounted externally to the camera housing [(6)], wherein the image rotating device [(200)] is adapted to rotate the second mirror at a second angle of rotation with respect to the optical input [(400, 8)] of the camera housing [(6)].
- 3. (Amended) An image rotating device [(200)] for a digital camera [(300)] having a camera housing [(6)], an optical input [(400)], such as a lens or objective [(8)], and an image capturing unit [(500)] for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input, the image rotating device comprising a first mirror [(9)] mounted externally to the camera housing [(6)], and a first rotational member [(5, 7)] for rotating the first mirror at a first angle of rotation with respect to the optical input [(400, 8)] of the camera housing, characterized by

a second mirror [(10)] mounted externally to the camera housing [(6)]; and a second rotational member [(3, 7)] for rotating the second mirror at a second angle of rotation with respect to the optical input [(400, 8)] of the camera housing.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place the application in better form for examination. Favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted, CARY & KELLY, LLP

Date: November 15, 2000 Signed:

Charles C. Cary Registration No. 36,764

CARY & KELLY, LLP 1875 Charleston Road Mountain View, California 94043 Telephone: 650.533.4844

Fax: 650.316.4013

1 528 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 NOV 2000

A DIGITAL CAMERA HAVING PANNING AND/OR TILTING FUNCTIONALITY, AND AN IMAGE ROTATING DEVICE FOR SUCH A CAMERA

Technical Field

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The present invention relates to a digital camera having panning and/or tilting functionality, and more specifically to a digital camera having a camera housing with an optical input, such as a lens or objective, an image capturing unit and a controller. The invention also relates to an image rotating device for providing the panning and/or tilting functionality of such a digital camera.

Background Art

A common example of a digital camera with panning and/or tilting functionality is a web camera, which.e.g. may be mounted at a given location for the purpose of surveillance, production monitoring, etc. The web camera comprises an optical input in the form of a lens or objective and an image capturing unit for producing a digital image from light received from the optical input. Usually, the image capturing unit comprises a CCD element (Charge Coupled Device). The web camera has software and hardware for allowing the camera to be connected to a given network, such as an Ethernet or Token Ring network. The web camera is arranged to produce digital images at a given rate, such as 1-25 images per second. In order to increase the visual volume covered by the web camera, the camera is provided with mechanical means for panning and/or tilting the camera. Generally speaking, "panning" means rotating the camera by a given angle (normally 0°-360°) in a horizontal plane, and "tilting" means rotating the camera by a given angle (normally 0°-180°) in a vertical plane.

In prior art web cameras the panning and/or tilting functionality is obtained by moving the whole camera or at

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least the objective thereof. Since the camera and objective have a considerable weight, such an approach involves complex, large and expensive mechanics. Furthermore, the speed at which the camera may be panned or tilted is restricted due to the large mass, that has to be moved accordingly.

Summary

It is an object of the present invention to provide a digital camera, which allows faster and more accurate panning and/or tilting, thereby allowing the camera to produce more images per time unit. Furthermore, it is an object of the present invention to provide an image rotating device, to be mounted externally to the digital camera, for providing efficient and rapid panning and/or tilting funtionality, without requiring large or expensive mechanics.

The above objects are achieved by providing the digital camera with an image rotating device having a mirror mounted externally to the camera housing and having a rotational member for rotating the mirror with respect to the optical input (lens or objective) of the camera housing in response to an angular displacement control signal received from a controller of the digital camera.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following detailed disclosure, from the appended claims as well as from the drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described in more detail, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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FIG 1 is a schematic block diagram of the overall structure of a digital camera according to the preferred embodiment,

FIG 2 is a first sideview of the image rotating device and the camera, to which it is mounted,

FIG 3 is a second sideview of the image rotating device and the camera shown in FIG 2, and

FIG 4 is a topview of the image rotating device shown in FIGs 2 and 3.

Detailed Disclosure

Referring to FIG 1, a digital camera 300 is illustrated in a basic modular form. The digital camera 300 is arranged to produce one or several digital image(s) of a generic object 100, which may be any physical object that is present in a volume optically covered by the digital camera 300. An inventive image rotating device 200 is mounted externally to the digital camera 300 in front of an optical input 400 of the digital camera. The optical input 400 is a generally known lens or objective. The purpose of the image rotating device 200 is to extend the available field of view of the digital camera 300 in at least one plane, preferably in a horizontal plane as well as in a vertical plane. A preferred embodiment of the image rotating device 200 will be described in more detail with reference to FIGs 2-4.

As shown in FIG 1, the digital camera 300 further comprises an image capturing unit 500, which is provided with appropriate means for producing a digital image representative of the object 100. Preferably, the image capturing unit 500 comprises a CCD element (Charge Coupled Device), the internal structure of which is believed to be well-known to a man skilled in the art. The digital camera 300 also has a controller 600 for controlling the image capturing unit 500 as well as the external image rotating

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device 200. The controller 600 is operatively connected not only to the device 200 and the unit 500 but also to a digital memory 700 for storing images captured by the image capturing unit 500. Furthermore, the digital camera 300 may comprise an image transforming unit 800, the purpose of which is to rotate the digital image to compensate for image rotating effects caused by the image rotating device 200, when the field of view is panned or tilted. The image transforming unit 800 is responsive to an angle of rotation of the image rotating device 200 with respect to the objective 400 and uses this angle of rotation when transforming the digital image to compensate for the current pan and/or tilt angle. To perform such image transforming, i.e. to rotate a digital image in one or more than one direction, is believed to be well within reach of a man skilled in the art of digital cameras. Therefore, the internal structure of the image transforming unit 800 will not be described herein.

The memory 700 may be implemented by any commercially available memory, such as an EEPROM memory.

As indicated in FIG 1, the digital camera 300 may be connected to a network 900, such as an Ethernet or Token Ring network, which in turn may be part of the Internet. In such an application, the controller 600 of the digital camera 300 is provided with appropriate software for allowing the digital camera 300 to act as a web camera available on the network 900, i.e. a web server that produces digital images.

The pan and/or tilt angle of the digital camera 300, or more specifically the angle(s) by which the image rotating device changes the field of view of the camera 300 with respect to a central axis of the objective 400, may be set and changed by a user of the camera by accessing the controller 600 through the network 900. Alternatively, the

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pan and/or tilt angle(s) may be controlled from a computer directly connected to the digital camera 300.

A preferred embodiment of the image rotating device 200 will now be described in more detail with reference to FIGs 2-4. The following elements are shown in these drawings:

Name

Ref. No.

	-		
	1	19	Frame
	1	18	Timing belt
.52%			tightener
	1	17	Belt wheel
	1	16	Timing belt
And the control of the second of the second	1	15	Belt wheel
	1	14	Timing belt
	1	13	Timing belt
1			tightener
Apriles on the control of the contro	2	12	Optical sensor
Marie	1	11	Mirror holder
	1	10	Tilting mirror
	1	9	Fixed mirror
ļu þ	1	8	Camera lens
			(objective)
	2	7	Motor
	1	6	Camera housing
	1	5	Mirror wheel
	1	4	Bevel gear
	1	3	Tilt shaft
	2	2	Fixing part
	1	1	Guiding wheel

The image rotating device 200 has a mirror system, comprising a first fixed mirror 9 and a second tilting mirror 10. The fixed mirror 9 is mounted directly in front of the objective 8 at an angle of 37° relative to the

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optical center axis of the camera 300. The fixed mirror 9 is mounted to a mirror wheel 5, which is rotatable around the objective and hence provides a field of view with an angle of rotation of between 0° and 360°.

In the center of the field of view the tilting mirror 10 is mounted, so that the axis of rotation thereof is perpendicular to the optical center axis of the camera. The tilting mirror 10 is carried on the mirror wheel 5, thereby causing the tilting mirror 10 to rotate around the objective 8 together with the fixed mirror 9. Thanks to the geometrical arrangement of the mirrors 9 and 10 with respect to the objective 8, it is possible to monitor a large volume in a short time.

The tilting mirror 10 is attached to a mirror holder 11, which in turn is journalled in the mirror wheel 5 between two fixing parts 2. Opposite to the mirror wheel 5 a slightly smaller guiding wheel 1 is concentrically mounted. A tilt shaft 3 is eccentrically mounted to the mirror wheel, so as to cause the tilting mirror 10 to move. The guiding wheel 1 transmits its motion to the tilt shaft 3 and from the tilt shaft 3 through a bevel gear 4 to the mirror holder 11. The arrangement resembles a planetary gear, where the guiding wheel represents a sun pinion and the tilt shaft represents a planet pinion. The mirror wheel acts as holder of the planet pinion.

When the mirror wheel does not move, if the guiding wheel is rotated, the tilt shaft 3 will rotate around its own axis, wherein the mirror holder 11 will be rotated around its axis of rotation. Hence, the tilting mirror 10 is rotated with respect to the mirror wheel 5, and the center axis of the field of view will be angled with respect to the optical center of the camera. If the mirror wheel 5 and the guiding wheel 1 rotates at the same angular velocity, there will be no relative motion in the tilt shaft and consequently no rotation of the mirror

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holder/mirror around its axis of rotation. However, the mirror wheel 5 as a whole will rotate with the fixed mirror 9 and the tilting mirror 10 at a constant angle to the optical center axis of the camera.

In other words, by rotating the mirror wheel 5 and the guiding wheel 1 synchronously, the field of view may be rotated 360° for any given tilt angle. Then, if the wheels are rotated relative to each other, the angle of the mirror holder 11 will change, and the field of view may be again be rotated 360° for a new tilt angle. In this way, a very large volume around the camera may be covered, and images may be obtained for any given location within this large volume.

The mirror wheel 5 and the guiding wheel 1 are driven by respective motors 7. Belt wheels 15, 17, timing belts 14, 16 and timing belt tighteners 13, 18 are provided, as shown in FIGs 2-4.

The inventive image rotating device provides at least the following advantages:

- Low moment of inertia for rotating parts
- High pan/tilt adjustment speed, short time between angular settings
- High setting accuracy
- Compact design
- Few structural components
- Low manufacturing cost
- Flexible design
- Simple pan/tilt control
- Wide field of view

The present invention has been described above with reference to a preferred embodiment. However, other embodiments than the one disclosed herein are possible within the scope of the invention, as defined by the appended independent patent claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A digital camera (300) having panning and/or tilting functionality, comprising: a camera housing (6) with an optical input (400), such as a lens or objective (8); an image capturing unit (500) for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input; a controller (600); a first mirror (9) mounted externally to the camera housing (6); and an image rotating device (200), which is connected to the controller (600) and is adapted to rotate the first mirror at an angle of rotation with respect to the optical input (400, 8) of the camera housing (6), characterized by

an image transforming unit (800), which is connected to the image capturing unit (500) and is adapted to rotate the digital image, as captured by the image capturing unit (500), by an angle related to the angle of rotation of the first mirror (9).

- 2. A digital camera as in claim 1, further comprising a second mirror (10) mounted externally to the camera housing (6), wherein the image rotating device (200) is adapted to rotate the second mirror at a second angle of rotation with respect to the optical input (400, 8) of the camera housing (6).
- 3. An image rotating device (200) for a digital camera (300) having a camera housing (6), an optical input (400), such as a lens or objective (8), and an image capturing unit (500) for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input, the image rotating device comprising a first mirror (9) mounted externally to the camera housing (6), and a first rotational member (5, 7) for rotating the first mirror at a first angle of

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rotation with respect to the optical input (400, 8) of the camera housing, characterized by

- a second mirror (10) mounted externally to the camera housing (6); and
- a second rotational member (3, 7) for rotating the second mirror at a second angle of rotation with respect to the optical input (400, 8) of the camera housing.

ABSTRACT

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A digital camera (300) has panning and/or tilting functionality and comprises: a camera housing (6) with an optical input (400), such as a lens or objective (8); an image capturing unit (500) for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input; and a controller (600). A first mirror (9) is mounted externally to the camera housing (6). An image rotating device (200) receives an angular displacement control signal from the controller (600) and rotates the first mirror at an angle with respect to the optical input (400, 8) of the camera housing (6).

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To be published together with FIG 1

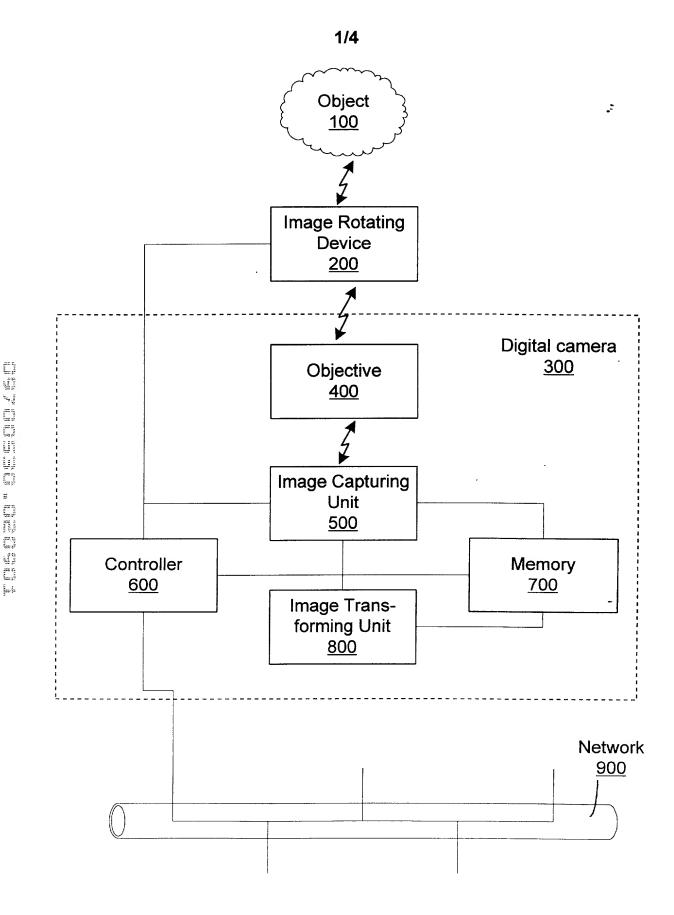


FIG 1

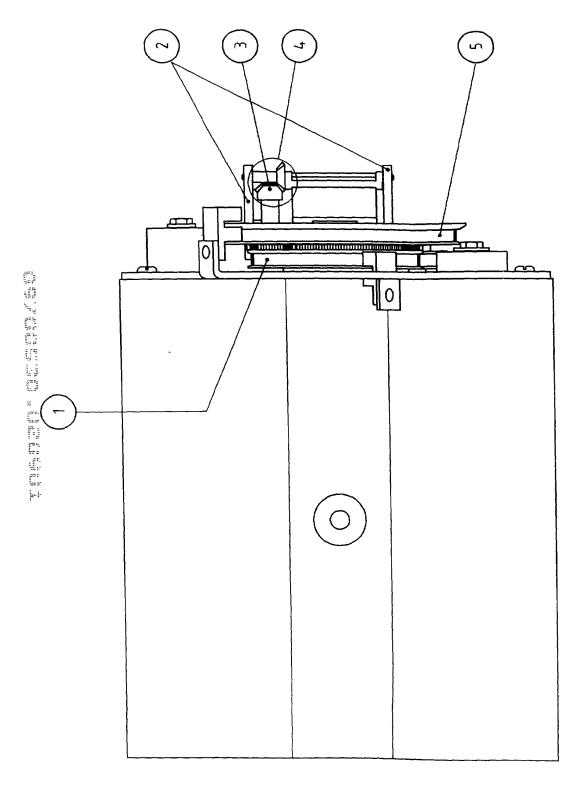
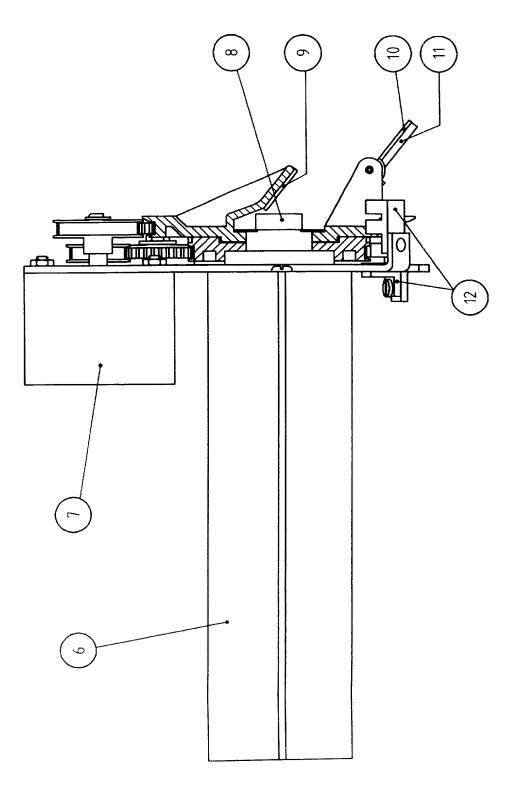


FIG 2



3/4

FIG 3

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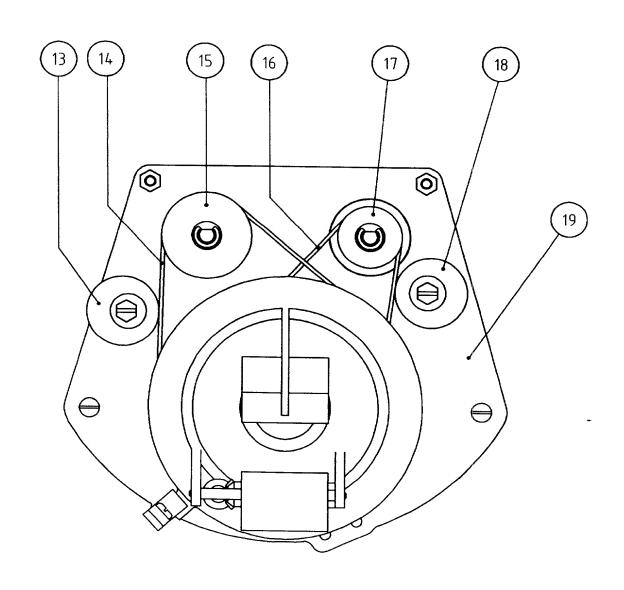


FIG 4

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR ORIGINAL U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney's Docket No.STGUP008

. As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stand below to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A DIGITAL CAMERA HAVING PANNING AND/OR TILTING FUNCTIONALITY AND AN IMAGE POTATING DEVICE FOR SHOULA CAMERA AT A CAMERA A CAMERA AT A CAMERA AT A CAMERA AT A

IMAGE KUTATI	NG DEV	ICE FOR SUCH A CAMI	LKA the specification of v	vhich,
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	2.	was filed on November 15 U.S. Application No. 09/7 and was amended on	00,530	
	3.		No	as
I hereby state that I h amended by any amend	ave review Iment refer	ed and understand the contents		ification, including the claims, as
I acknowledge the duty 37° CFR § 1.56.	to disclose	e information which is material t	o the examination of this ap	plication in accordance with Title
	rneys the ri date of my	ght to insert the U.S. application signature below.	number and filing date wh	ere space is provided above at any
Prior Foreign Applica	ition(s)			
for patent or inventor's than the United State	s certificate s, listed be	or § 365(a) of any PCT Internation and have identified below,	tional application which des by checking the box, any	65(b) of any foreign application(s) signated at least one country other foreign application for patent or e application on which priority is
0001020 1		0 1		Priority Benefits Claimed?
9901038-1 (Application No.)		Sweden	March 19, 1999	Yes _x_ No
(Application No.)		(Country)	(Filing Date)	
PCT/SE00/00522		PCT PCT	March 17, 2000	Yes _x_ No
(Application No.)		(Country)	(Filing Date)	
Provisional Application	on(s)			
I hereby claim the bene	fit under 3	5 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United S	tates provisional application	(s) listed below:
(Application No.)		(Filing Date)		
(Application No.)		- (Filing Date)		
Atty. Dkt. No.: STGUI	2008	Page 1	of 2	

Prior U.S. Application(s)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
Power of Attorney		
KELLY, LLP, 1875 Charle	ston Road, Mountain View, California, 94	Kelly, Reg. No. 33,922, all of the law firm of CARY & 043, and all practitioners who are associated with this
firm as my principal attorne connected therewith.	eys to prosecute this application and to tra	nsact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office
Direct Correspondence To:		
Direct Correspondence To:	CARY & KELLY, LLP 1875 Charleston Road Mountain View CA, 94043	
Direct Telephone Calls To:	Charles C. Cary at telepho	one number (650) 533.4844
belief are believed to be true the like so made are punisha	; and further that these statements were ma	are true and that all statements made on information and de with the knowledge that willful false statements and section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and cation or any patent issuing thereon.
Typewritten Full Name of Sole or First Inventor:	Willy SAGEFALK	Citizenship: Sweden
Inventor's signature:	Willy SAGET ACC	Date of Signature: 010105
Residence: (City)	Lund	(State/Country) Sweden
Post Office Address:	Mollevangsvagen 8, S-222 40, Lund	Sweden SEY
Full Name of Second Joint Inventor (if any):	Lars ABRAHAMSSON	Citizenship: Sweden
Inventor's signature:	Luns Malianer	Date of Signature: 010105
Residence: (City) _	Linkoping	(State/Country)Sweden_
Post Office Address:	Vidagatan 1B, S-582 46, Linkoping,	Sweden SEX

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